

February 13, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

ORGANIZATION OF STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (ITEM NO. 3, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 4, 2003)

Item No. 3 on the February 4, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Burke to support retention of the State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) as a separate State Department, and to send a five signature letter to convey this position to the Governor, the Assembly Speaker, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Minority Leaders of both houses, and the County's Legislative Delegation.

The Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2003-04 proposes the consolidation of EMSA into the California Department of Health Services effective July 1, 2003. The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee's staff estimates that this proposal will save the State General Fund \$138,000 annually.

The EMSA mission is to coordinate State emergency medical services and policy through the development of guidelines for local EMS systems, regulation of education, training, and certification of EMS personnel, and coordination of the State's medical response to disaster situations. The Department of Health Services (DHS) believes that the proposed consolidation of EMSA will dilute the focus of emergency and trauma care issues at the State level, and diminish the consideration of local EMS issues in funding and policy decisions. **DHS recommends that the County support the retention of EMSA as a separate State Department, and we concur.**

Both the Senate and the Assembly Health Budget Subcommittees rejected the proposal to consolidate EMSA with the California Department of Health Services, and their actions were ratified by the full Senate and Assembly Budget Committees.

DEJ:GK
MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Department of Health Services